

*Via Federal Express and E-Filing*

July 31, 2014



Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: In the Matter of the Annual Report to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for  
Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification for Absaraka Cooperative Telephone  
Company  
Case No. PU-14-406

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed please find eight copies of the Annual Report to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification, Public Exhibits, Affidavit Regarding Certification of Use of Federal Universal Service Support, and Request to Protect Trade Secret Information on behalf of Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company. A copy of each of these documents has also been provided by email to [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov). In a separate sealed envelope, marked "Trade Secret - Private," is Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company's Trade Secret Exhibit A.

Please contact me if further information is required.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Campbell".

**Tom Campbell**  
Regulatory Consultant  
651-621-8511  
[tcampbell@otcpas.com](mailto:tcampbell@otcpas.com)

Enclosures

7 PU-14-406 Filed 07/31/2014 Pages: 12  
ND Admin Code Section 69-09-05-12.1 Annual Report  
Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc.  
Tom Campbell, Regulatory Consultant

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**ESSENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, on behalf of the telecommunications company named below (the Company), does hereby state and certify, as follows:

- 1 The Company will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's designated service area where the Company's network already passes the potential customer's premises, and
2. The Company will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Company's designated service area but outside the Company's existing network coverage, if service can be provided at a reasonable cost
3. The Company is able to remain functional in emergency situations and has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.
4. The Company is satisfying and will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. (If wireless service is involved, the Company has and will comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for wireless service. If a wireless service complies with another standard, that is explained herein.)
5. If the Company is a non-incumbent local exchange carrier, it will offer a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier in the designated service area.



6. The Company acknowledges that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission) may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the proposed designated service area. (If wireless carriage is involved, the Company acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission may require the Company to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the designated service area.)
7. The Company has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising. This includes:
  - a.
  - b. Advertising of the availability of universal service in media of general circulation in the Company's designated service area. Availability may be advertised in newspapers, company newsletters, company or civic Internet sites, bill stuffers, direct mailings, or other means intended to convey availability throughout the designated service area.

#### **Exhibit A Information**

(Reference to Exhibit A in this document is not intended to waive any rights this company has to claim that Exhibit A contains confidential and proprietary information.)

The following information is provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference:

1. A description of the amount of high-cost universal service support received by the Company in the prior calendar year and a description of how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services. (An explanation of any changes from reports previously provided to the Commission is also included.)
2. An estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the Company anticipates receiving in the following calendar year (the calendar year following this report) and a description of how that support is projected to be used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
3. Exhibit A also contains, for the prior calendar year and the subsequent calendar year (the calendar year following this report), identification of specific construction or upgrade projects; a description of how service will be improved by each project; the start date and completion date for each improvement; the amount of investment for cash improvement; the specific geographic area where each improvement was made or will be made; and the estimated population that will be served by each improvement. (For an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), this information is submitted at the study area level. For another eligible carrier, this information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC. If a study area level or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is also submitted at the North Dakota level.)

4. Detailed information of any outage, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration for each designated service area for any facilities the Company owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect:
  - a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
  - b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e).

This report includes:

- a. The date and time of the onset of the outage,
- b. A brief description of the outage and its resolution,
- c. The particular services affected,
- d. The geographic areas affected by the outage,
- e. Steps taken to prevent a similar outage in the future, and
- f. The number of customers affected.

(If applicable, a copy of the FCC outage report that includes this information may be attached.)

5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled during the past year. A detail of how the Company attempted to provide service to those potential customers is also included.
6. The number of complaints per thousand handsets or lines.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct and is submitted on behalf of the Company named below. The information is submitted in the year 2014.

Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company  
Company

By: Ann J. Fought  
Its: General Manager



PUBLIC DOCUMENT - TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED

PUBLIC

EXHIBIT A

This Exhibit A is supplemented by a non-public Exhibit A labeled "Trade Secret — Private." The Company does not waive any rights to Trade Secret Protection by referencing this "Trade Secret — Private" information in this form.

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the Company received in the prior calendar year and estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support it anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report) are listed below:

**Year 2013 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 9,132
Local Switching Support	\$ 1,476
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 19,596
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 30,204

The changes, if any, from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows (changes that are deemed proprietary are included on a non-public Exhibit A):

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Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company

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3. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled in the past year was -0-

The ways in which the Company attempted to provide services to these potential customers are, as follows:

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4. The number of complaints per one thousand handsets or lines was 0

Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Inc.

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PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT A

1. The amount of high-cost universal support the Company received in the prior calendar year and estimate of the amount of high-cost universal support it anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year following the date of this report) are listed below:

**Year 2013 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

This information is separately provided on "Public Exhibit A."

**Estimated Year 2015 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support  
Local Switching Support  
Interstate Common Line Support  
Safety Net Additive Support  
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment  
TOTAL



[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

The changes, if any, are claimed to be "Trade Secret — Private" from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows:

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Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company



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- a **Prior Year's Support.** The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services are, as follows:

	<u>Actual</u> 2013
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	
General support (Accts 6120-24)	
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)	
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	
Customer Operations Expenses	
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)	
Corporate Operations Expenses	
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)	
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>	
<b>Additions</b>	
Switching (Acct 2210)	
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>	

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company



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Specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

(All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

(If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is also provided at the North Dakota level.)

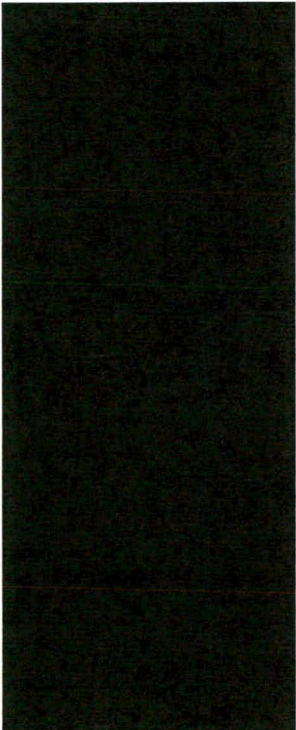

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Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company

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**b. Following Year's Support** **(the calendar year following the date of this report).** The ways the Company anticipates it will use the following calendar year's support for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services are, as follows:

	<u>Estimated</u> 2015	
<b>Plant Specific Operations Expenses</b>		
Network support (Accts 6110-16)		
General support (Accts 6120-24)		
Central office (Accts 6210-6232)		
Cable and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)		
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)		
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)		
<b>Customer Operations Expenses 0</b>		
Customer services (Accts 6620-23)		
<b>Corporate Operations Expenses</b>		
Executive and planning (Accts 6710-12)		
General and administrative (Accts 6720-28)		
<b>Total Years Supported Expenses, Before Return on Investment</b>		
<b>Additions</b>		
Switching (Acct 2210)		
Cable and wire (Acct 2410)		
<b>Total</b>		
<b>Total Supported Expenditures, Before Return on Investment</b>		

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company



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Specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

(All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

(If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is also provided at the North Dakota level.)

[TRADE SECRET INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCISED]

[illegible]

Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company



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2. **Outages.** Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration of each designated service area for any facility which the Company owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect:
  - a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
  - b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45(e).

[illegible]

(If any FCC outage reports were filed showing this information, they may be attached instead.)

Company Name Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company